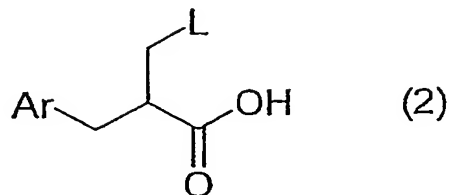
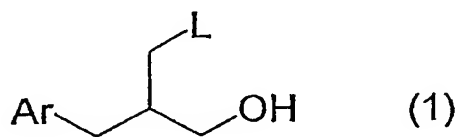


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for producing a 2-aralkylpropionic acid represented by Formula (2):



wherein Ar is an optionally substituted aryl group having 6 to 18 carbon atoms, and L is a sulfonyloxy group or a halogen atom, comprising oxidizing a 2-aralkyl-1-propanol represented by Formula (1):



wherein Ar and L are as defined above, using a permanganate under an acidic condition.

2. The method according to Claim 1 wherein Ar is an optionally substituted phenyl group or an optionally substituted naphthyl group.

3. The method according to Claim 1 wherein Ar is an optionally substituted phenyl group.

4. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein L is an optionally substituted straight, branched or cyclic alkylsulfonyloxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an optionally substituted arylsulfonyloxy group having 6 to 18 carbon atoms.
5. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein L is a methanesulfonyloxy group or a toluenesulfonyloxy group.
6. The method according to Claim 1 wherein Ar is a phenyl group and L is a methanesulfonyloxy group.
7. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein L is a halogen atom.
8. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 7 wherein the permanganate is an alkaline metal salt of permanganic acid.
9. The method according to Claim 8 wherein the alkaline metal salt of permanganic acid is potassium permanganate.
10. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 9 wherein the acidic condition is formed in acidic aqueous solution consisting of water and acetic acid or water and sulfuric acid.
11. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 10 wherein a

solvent mixture of the acidic aqueous solution and an organic solvent is employed.

12. The method according to Claim 11 wherein the organic solvent is an organic solvent having no compatibility with water and the reaction is conducted in a biphasic system with the acidic aqueous solution.

13. The method according to Claim 12 wherein the organic solvent having no compatibility with water is an acetic alkyl ester having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

14. The method according to Claim 13 wherein the acetic alkyl ester having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

15. The method according to Claim 11 wherein the organic solvent is an organic solvent having a compatibility with water.

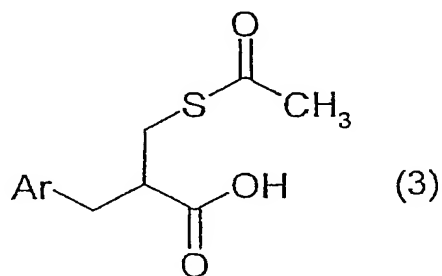
16. The method according to Claim 15 wherein the organic solvent having a compatibility with water is acetone, tetrahydrofuran or tert-butanol.

17. The method according to Claim 16 wherein the acidic aqueous solution consists of sulfuric acid and water and the reaction is conducted in a solvent mixture system with acetone.

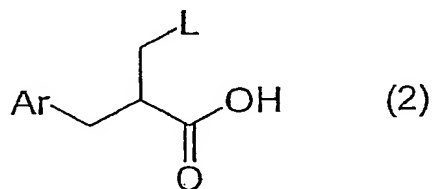
18. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 17 wherein a treatment with a reducing agent is conducted under an acidic condition after the reaction.

19. The method according to Claim 18 wherein the reducing agent is a hydrogen sulfite, sulfite, pyrosulfite or an aqueous solution thereof.

20. A method for producing a 2-aralkyl-3-acetylthiopropionic acid represented by Formula (3):



wherein Ar is an optionally substituted aryl group having 6 to 18 carbon atoms comprising reacting a 2-aralkylpropionic acid represented by Formula (2):



wherein Ar is as defined above and L is a sulfonyloxy group or a halogen atom with a thioacetate in the presence of water.

21. The method according to Claim 20 wherein Ar is an optionally substituted phenyl group or an optionally substituted naphthyl group.

22. The method according to Claim 20 wherein Ar is an optionally substituted phenyl group.

23. The method according to any one of Claims 20 to 22 wherein L is an optionally substituted straight, branched or cyclic alkylsulfonyloxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an optionally substituted arylsulfonyloxy group having 6 to 18 carbon atoms.

24. The method according to any one of Claims 20 to 22 wherein L is a methanesulfonyloxy group or a toluenesulfonyloxy group.

25. The method according to Claim 20 wherein Ar is a phenyl group and L is a methanesulfonyloxy group.

26. The method according to any one of Claims 20 to 22 wherein L is a halogen atom.

27. The method according to any one of Claims 20 to 26 wherein the reaction solvent is water.

28. The method according to any one of Claims 20 to 26 wherein the

reaction solvent is a solvent mixture of water and an organic solvent.

29. The method according to Claim 28 wherein the organic solvent is an organic solvent having no compatibility with water and the reaction is conducted in a biphasic system with water.

30. The method according to Claim 29 wherein the organic solvent having no compatibility with water is an aromatic hydrocarbon or an acetic alkyl ester having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

31. The method according to Claim 30 wherein the organic solvent having no compatibility with water is toluene or ethyl acetate.

32. The method according to Claim 28 wherein the organic solvent is an organic solvent having a compatibility with water.

33. The method according to Claim 32 wherein the organic solvent having a compatibility with water is alcohol having 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

34. The method according to Claim 33 wherein the organic solvent having a compatibility with water is methanol.

35. The method according to any one of Claims 20 to 34 wherein the

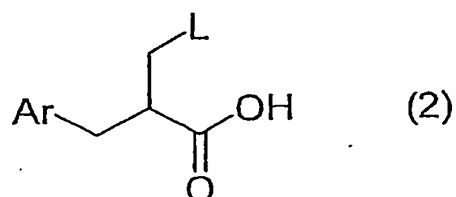
thioacetate is an alkaline metal salt of thioacetic acid.

36. The method according to Claim 35 wherein the alkaline metal salt of thioacetic acid is potassium thioacetate.

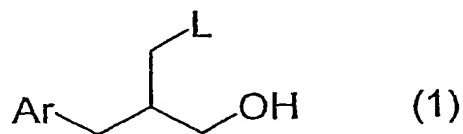
37. The method according to any one of Claims 20 to 36 wherein the thioacetate is formed in situ using thioacetic acid and a base.

38. The method according to any one of Claims 20 to 37 wherein the reaction is conducted under an inert gas atmosphere.

39. The method according to any one of Claims 20 to 38 wherein a 2-aralkylpropionic acid represented by Formula (2):



wherein Ar and L are as defined above, is obtained by oxidizing a 2-aralkyl-1-propanol represented by Formula (1):



wherein Ar and L are as defined above, using a permanganate under an acidic condition.

40. The method according to Claim 39 wherein the permanganate is an alkaline metal salt of permanganic acid.

41. The method according to Claim 40 wherein the alkaline metal salt of permanganic acid is potassium permanganate.

42. The method according to any one of Claims 39 to 41 wherein the acidic condition is formed in an acidic aqueous solution consisting of water and acetic acid or water and sulfuric acid.

43. The method according to any one of Claims 39 to 42 wherein a solvent mixture of the acidic aqueous solution and an organic solvent is employed.

44. The method according to Claim 43 wherein the organic solvent is an organic solvent having no compatibility with water and the reaction is conducted in a biphasic system with the acidic aqueous solution.

45. The method according to Claim 44 wherein the organic solvent having no compatibility with water is an acetic alkyl ester having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

46. The method according to Claim 45 wherein the acidic aqueous solution consists of water and acetic acid and the reaction is



conducted in a biphasic system of ethyl acetate and the solvent mixture.

47. The method according to Claim 43 wherein the organic solvent is an organic solvent having a compatibility with water.

48. The method according to Claim 47 wherein the organic solvent having a compatibility with water is acetone, tetrahydrofuran or tert-butanol.

49. The method according to Claim 48 wherein the acidic aqueous solution consists of sulfuric acid and water and the reaction is conducted in a solvent mixture system with acetone.

50. The method according to any one of Claims 39 to 49 wherein the reaction from a compound represented by Formula (1) to a compound represented by Formula (2) is followed by a treatment with a reducing agent under an acidic condition.

51. The method according to Claim 50 wherein the reducing agent is a hydrogen sulfite, sulfite, pyrosulfite or an aqueous solution thereof.